

TN409.1 Conservation Planning Objective.

(a) This document establishes Tennessee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy for providing conservation planning assistance to clients. The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) has the functional oversight for this policy. As part of this oversight, the SRC will establish a tracking and quality assurance system to assess implementation.

(2) The minimum level of treatment to strive for in the planning process is the Resource Management System (RMS) as identified in the Tennessee Field Office Technical Guide, Section III. Progressive planning is used to work toward an RMS when a client is ready, willing, and able to make some, but not all, of the decisions necessary to achieve an RMS level of management.

(c) The National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) provides procedures and guidance on implementing this planning policy, including relationships to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), electronic storage of data, technical handbooks, and program guidance in the planning process. The NRCS planning process and standards as outlined in the NPPH will be used for all conservation planning. All conservation practices planned and scheduled for application in the field will meet the standards and specifications outlined in the FOTG. All references to the FOTG in this policy refer to the web version of the Tennessee FOTG, commonly referred to as the eFOTG.

(d) In situations where NRCS is assisted by other agencies or groups, NRCS planning procedures and plan format will be consistent. All Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) or other agency conservation plans associated with a non-NRCS cost-share program will have the same level of planning and documentation assistance required of any USDA-NRCS program.